

[1st August 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

**Braille plates for use by visually impaired at National Monuments**

1199. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for preparing Braille plates for providing information about our national monuments for visually impaired persons;

(b) if so, by when and the places it would be implemented first;

(c) whether the HARK system has not worked successfully at Red Fort; and

(d) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

**New areas identified for development as tourist places**

1200. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the new areas identified for development as tourist places in the country;

(b) the progress made in this regard; and

(c) the details of measures taken by Government to promote tourism in such areas particularly in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has identified 21 Travel Circuits, 12 Tourist destinations and 5 Special Tourism Areas in consultation with the State Governments for development of Tourism in the country.

(b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has a